

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 126157

66

ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN

APPROVED BY: ARA:GECHAFIN

----- 126512

P 301728Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126157

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOGOTA 4900 SENT SECSTATE DATED MAY 29.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 4900

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: MILITARY CHANGES

TAGS: PINT, MORG, CO

REF: BOGOTA 4879

1.

RELIABLE SOURCE WHO IS A RETIRED ARMY OFFICER AND A CLOSE FRIEND OF VALENCIA TOVAR HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION OF WHAT LED UP TO VALENCIA TOVAR'S RETIREMENT BY THE PRESIDENT, REXLERTING IN PART SOURCES CONVERSATION WITH VALENCIA AFTER THE EVENT. ASPECTS OF THE ACCOUNT ARE CORROBORATED BY OTHER SOURCES, AND WE BELIEVE IT PROVIDES A ROUGHLY ACCURATE EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAPPENED:

A) THE FORCED RETIREMENT OF VALENCIA WAS THE CULMINATION OF A LONG RIVALRY AND MUTUAL DISLIKE AND THE RESULT OF A SPECIFIC SHOWDOWN PROVOKED BY BOTH.

B) THE PROXIMATE CAUSE WAS AN ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 126157

CHANGES WHICH APPEARED IN THE CALI DAILY OCCIDENTE MAY 24.

THIS ACCOUNT, WHICH WAS IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF VALENCIA, WAS, SOURCE BELIEVES FROM INTERNAL EVIDENCE, PROVIDED BY A HIGH ARMY OFFICER KNOWLEDGEABLE OF EVENTS AND PERSONALITIES, AND PROBABLY SOMEONE CLOSE TO VARON. THE ACCOUNT WAS A BASIC SOURCE OF THE UPI DESPATCH PRINTED IN BOGOTA WHICH CAUSED A STIR (REFTEL).

C) WHEN THE OCCIDENTE ARTICLE APPEARED VALENCIA SOUGHT OUT VARON AND GENERAL HERRERA TO GET A RECTIFICATION. HE WAS UNABLE TO MEET WITH THEM UNTIL MAY 26. VALENCIA, VARON AND HERRERA, SOURCE CLAIMS, AGREED ON A STATEMENT TO BE MADE PUBLICLY BY MINISTRY. AFTER UPI STORY APPEARED MAY 27 VALENCIA FELT HE WOULD HAVE TO ISSUE A STATEMENT SEPARATELY BUT APRALLELING MINISTRY'S STATEMENT. VALENCIA CLAIMS THAT SUBSEQUENT TO AGREEING ON THE TEXT OF A MINISTRY STATEMENT, VARON CHANGED THE TEXT AND DID NOT INFORM HIM. THAT IS WHY THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONTRADICTION IN THE TWO STATEMENTS (REFTEL).

D) VARON'S STATEMENT ACCUSES PUYANA AND COL JIMENEZ OF LACK OF DISCIPLINE AND ATTRIBUTES PUYANA'S FORCED RETIREMENT HIS PROTESTING A LEGITIMATE TRANSFER. VALENCIA'S STATEMENT DEFENDS THE LOYALTY OF THE TWO OFNICERS, AND STATED THEY WERE NOT GUILTY OF QTE DISLOYALTY UNQTE OR PLOTTING. IN ANY CASE, THE TWO STATEMENT MADE QUITE CLEAR PUBLICLY THERE WAS AND HAD BEEN A SERIOUS DIVERGENCE BETWEEN VALENCIA AND VARON.

E) AS RESULT OF THIS SEQUENCE OF EVENTS, BOTH DECIDED THEY COULD NOT CONTINUE FUNCTIONING TOGETHER AND A CHANGE HAD TO BE MADE. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, VARON WENT TO PRESIDENT FIRST AND INITIATED THE MARATHON MEETINGS CONVINCING HIM THAT VALENCIA HAD TO GO. SUBSEQUENTLY VALENCIA WAS SUMMONED BY THE PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT WAS IN EFFECT ASKED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN VARON AND VALENCIA, AND HE WAS CONVINCED HE COULD NOT LET THE SITUATION CONTINUE WITH BOTH ON ACTIVE DUTY. VALENCIA TOLD SOURCE THAT THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED HE RETURE, TO WHICH VALENCIA REPLIED THAT SINCE HIS CONSCIENCE WAS CLEAR AND HE FELT HE HAD BEEN CORRECT HE WOULD NOT DO SO VOLUNTARILY ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT HAD THE POWER TO REMOVE HIM.

F) SOURCE BELIEVES PRESIDENT LOPEZ WAS NEVER COMFORTABLE WITH VALENCIA BECAUSE OF THE LATTER'S LOVE OF PUBLICITY AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 126157

HIS FREQUENT INTERVIEWS AND STATEMENTS STRESSING LOYALTY TO THE QTE PATRIA UNQTE, WHICH BY INFERENCE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS MEANING VALENCIA FELT NO PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE ADMINISTRATION AS SUCH. VALENCIA TRIED TO OFFSET THIS INTERPRETATION IN RECENT STATEMENTS, BUT SOURCE BELIEVES LOPEZ NEVERTHELESS WAS NO FAN OF VALENCIA.

G) SOURCE STATES THAT SENTIMENT IN THE ARMY AGAINST VARON IS STRONG AND RISING, AND THERE IS PARTICULAR DISMAY

AT WHAT MANY BELIEVE TO BE DOCUMENTABLE PROOF THAT VARON HAS BEEN CORRUPT, ENGAGING IN CONTRABAND AND KICKBACKS ON ARMS PURCHASES. IN ANY CASE, HE THINKS SENTIMENT IN THE ARMY WILL FORCE PRESIDENT LOPEZ TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CHANGES, INCLUDING VARON, IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND MONTHS.

H) SOURCE STATED THAT NO SERIOUS THREAT OF A GOLPE OR COUP PLOTTING EXISTED, AND NO ALLEGATION OR BELIEF TO THAT EFFECT REALLY PLAYED ANY CENTRAL ROLE IN VALENCIA'S REMOVAL.

2. IT APPEARS FROM FOREGOING THAT THE RECENT EVENTS REFLECT ESSENTIALLY AN INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AND A CLASH BETWEEN TWO STRONG PERSONALITIES. THE REMOVAL OF THE POPULAR VALENCIA HAS CREATED CONSTERNATION AND SOME TENSION IN THE OFFICER CORPS, BUT NO ONE BELIEVES AT THIS POINT THAT THERE IS ANY DANGER OF A REBELLION OR COUP ATTEMPT. AND CERTAINLY VALENCIA IS TAKING IT LIKE A GOOD SOLDIER. OF MORE CONCERN ARE THE POSSIBLE LONGER RANGE EFFECTS--THE NURSING OF GRUDGES, WHAT SOME BELIEVE WILL BE THE DETERIORATING EFFECT ON THE MORALE, DISCIPLINE, AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THE ARMY OF THESE EVENTS, AND CONCERN AS TO WHAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ REALLY THINKS OF (OR HOW SYMPATHETIC HE IS TO) THE MILITARY AS AN IMPORTANT INSTITUTION OF SOCIETY.  
VAKY  
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMED FORCES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE126157  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ARA/LA:GECHAFIN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750190-0327  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975054/aaaaadhj.tel  
**Line Count:** 139  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BOGOTA 4879  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** johnsorg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MILITARY CHANGES TAGS: PINT, MORG, CO  
**TAGS:** PINT, MORG, CO, (LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ALFONSO), (VALENCIA TOVAR)  
**To:** TOKYO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006